



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - February 27, 2003

- ***In the West***, scattered rain and snow showers continue in the ***Southwest***, but unfavorably dry weather prevails elsewhere. Most areas from the ***Rockies westward*** are nearing the end of a disappointing wet season, meaning that ***Western*** water-supply concerns are likely to persist for the remainder of the year.
- ***On the Plains***, cold weather and snow showers linger in ***central portions of the region***. Elsewhere, mild air is gradually replacing cold conditions on the ***northern and southern Plains***. A variable snow cover continues to help protect winter wheat across all but the ***southernmost Plains***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, cold weather continues to stress ***Midwestern*** livestock, but a substantial snow cover is insulating the winter wheat crop from the ***Ohio Valley to the lower Great Lakes region***.
- ***In the South***, showers and thunderstorms are sweeping across the ***southern Atlantic States***, while light rain lingers from the ***Delta to the southern Appalachians***. Farther north, freezing rain and snow showers are disrupting travel in the ***southern Mid-Atlantic region***.

Outlook: Another strong winter storm will affect the ***Mid-Atlantic States*** into Friday, as a low-pressure system moves northeastward from the ***Gulf Coast region***. Widespread rain will continue across the ***Southeast*** today, while a mixture of significant snow, sleet, freezing rain, and rain will develop this afternoon in the ***Mid-Atlantic States***. For the remainder of the week, light precipitation is possible across the ***southern Plains and Pacific Northwest***. Meanwhile, bitterly cold weather will return to the ***upper Midwestern and Great Lakes States*** during the weekend. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for March 4-8 calls for above-normal precipitation in ***northern portions of the Rockies and Plains***, much of the ***South and East***, and parts of the ***Southwest***. Meanwhile, drier-than-normal weather is expected in the ***Far West, Rio Grande Valley, upper Midwest***, and ***lower Missouri Valley***. Below-normal temperatures will persist across much of the U.S., although warmer-than-normal conditions are likely along the ***Gulf and southern Atlantic Coasts***.

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